

**In the claims:**

**Cancel claim 2.**

**Amend remaining claims 1, 3-11, 13-15, 17-19 and 23-44 where indicated.**

1        1. (Currently Amended) A method of making a magnetic head, which has an air  
2        bearing surface (ABS) and a back gap (BG), comprising the steps of:  
3              forming a second pole tip of a second pole piece with a top surface and a bottom surface  
4              at an ABS site for said ABS;  
5              the top surface of the second pole tip having a write region located at the ABS site and a  
6              stitch region which is recessed in its entirety from the ABS site toward said back gap;  
7              depositing a protective sacrificial layer on the write region and stitch regions of the second  
8              pole tip; [[and]]  
9              removing said sacrificial layer from only the stitch region of the second pole tip; and  
10              forming a second pole piece yoke of a second pole piece magnetically connected to the  
11              stitch region of the second pole tip.

2. (Canceled)

1        3. (Currently Amended) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in  
2        claim [[2]] 1 wherein the sacrificial layer is alumina.

1        4. (Original) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 3  
2        including the steps of:  
3              forming a first shield layer;  
4              forming first and second read gap layers;  
5              forming a read sensor between the first and second read gap layers; and  
6              forming the first and second read gap layers between the first shield layer and  
7              the second pole piece layer.

1           5. (Withdrawn) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 2  
2 including:

3           said depositing of the sacrificial layer also deposits the sacrificial layer over the first write  
4 coil layer;

5           chemically mechanically polishing the sacrificial layer until it is flat, but stopping the  
6 chemical mechanical polishing before the top surface of the second pole tip is exposed; and

7           before forming the second pole piece yoke, said removing said sacrificial layer including  
8 etching or ion milling the sacrificial layer from the stitch region of the second pole tip until the  
9 stitch region is exposed.

1           6. (Withdrawn) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 5  
2 wherein the sacrificial layer is alumina.

1           7. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in~~  
2 ~~claim 2 including: A method of making a magnetic head, which has an air bearing surface (ABS)~~  
3 ~~and a back gap (BG), comprising the steps of:~~

4           forming a second pole tip of a second pole piece with a top surface and a bottom surface  
5 at an ABS site for said ABS;

6           the top surface of the second pole tip having a write region located at the ABS site and a  
7 stitch region which is recessed from the ABS site toward said back gap;

8           depositing a protective sacrificial layer on the write region of the second pole tip;

9           forming a second pole piece yoke of a second pole piece magnetically connected to the  
10 stitch region of the second pole tip;

11           said depositing of the sacrificial layer also deposits the sacrificial layer on the stitch region  
12 of the second pole tip;

13           removing said sacrificial layer from the stitch region of the second pole tip;

14           the forming of the second pole tip also forms the second pole tip with a pole tip pedestal  
15 in the stitch region;

16           said depositing of the sacrificial layer also deposits the sacrificial layer over the first write  
17 coil layer;

18           said removing of the sacrificial layer includes chemically mechanically polishing the  
19           sacrificial layer until the sacrificial layer is flat and the pole tip pedestal in the stitch region is  
20           exposed, but stopping the chemical mechanical polishing before the write region of the second  
21           pole tip is exposed; and

22           the forming of the second pole piece yoke magnetically connects the second pole piece  
23           yoke to the second pole tip pedestal.

1           8. (Original) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 7  
2           including the steps of:

3           forming a first insulation layer directly on the write gap layer with a front portion which  
4           is recessed from the ABS toward the back gap but is located under a pedestal site of the second  
5           pole tip pedestal; and

6           said forming of the second pole tip forms the second pole tip with said second  
7           pole tip pedestal without additional processing steps because of a profile of the front  
8           portion of said first insulation layer.

1           9. (Original) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 8 wherein  
2           the sacrificial layer is alumina.

1           10. (Currently Amended) ~~A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 2 wherein after forming the first pole piece layer the method includes the steps of:~~ A method of  
~~making a magnetic head, which has an air bearing surface (ABS) and a back gap (BG), comprising~~  
~~the steps of:~~

5           forming a second pole tip of a second pole piece with a top surface and a bottom surface  
6           at an ABS site for said ABS;

7           the top surface of the second pole tip having a write region located at the ABS site and a  
8           stitch region which is recessed from the ABS site toward said back gap;

9           depositing a protective sacrificial layer on the write region of the second pole tip;

10           forming a second pole piece yoke of a second pole piece magnetically connected to the  
11           stitch region of the second pole tip;

12        said depositing of the sacrificial layer also deposits the sacrificial layer on the stitch region  
13        of the second pole tip;

14        removing said sacrificial layer from the stitch region of the second pole tip;

15        forming a first pole piece layer of a first pole piece;

16        depositing a first alumina layer[[;]] on the first pole piece layer;

17        chemically mechanically polishing the first alumina layer;

18        said forming of the first write coil forming the first write coil on the first alumina layer  
19        after chemical mechanical polishing the first alumina layer;

20        removing a first portion of the first alumina layer to expose a stitch region of the first pole  
21        piece layer which is located at said ABS site and between the ABS site and the back gap and  
22        removing a second portion of the first alumina layer at the back gap exposing a back gap region  
23        of the first pole piece[[;]] layer;

24        forming a first pedestal of the first pole piece connected to the stitch region of the first pole  
25        piece layer and forming a second pedestal of the first pole piece connected to the back gap region  
26        of the first pole piece layer;

27        said forming of the write gap layer forming the write gap layer on a top of the first pedestal  
28        of the first pole piece and on a top surface of the second pedestal of the first pole piece;

29        said forming of the second pole tip forms the second pole tip on the write gap layer above  
30        the first pedestal of the first pole piece;

31        forming a second write coil layer between the second pole tip and the back gap; and

32        said depositing of the sacrificial layer also deposits the sacrificial layer on top of the second  
33        write coil layer.

1            11.        (Withdrawn) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 10  
2        including:

3        said depositing of the sacrificial layer also deposits the sacrificial layer over the first write  
4        coil layer;

5        chemically mechanically polishing the sacrificial layer until it is flat, but stopping the  
6        chemical mechanical polishing before the top surface of the second pole tip is exposed; and

7        before forming the second pole piece yoke, said removing said sacrificial layer including  
8        etching or ion milling the sacrificial layer from the stitch region of the second pole tip until the  
9        stitch region is exposed.

1           13. (Withdrawn) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 11  
2           wherein the sacrificial layer is alumina.

1           14. (Withdrawn) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 13  
2           including the steps of:  
3           forming a first shield layer;  
4           forming first and second read gap layers;  
5           forming a read sensor between the first and second read gap layers; and  
6           forming the first and second read gap layers between the first shield layer and  
7           the second pole piece layer.

1           15. (Currently Amended) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim  
2           10 including:  
3           the forming of the second pole tip also forms the second pole tip with a pole tip pedestal  
4           in the stitch region[[;]] of the second pole tip;  
5           said depositing of the sacrificial layer also deposits the sacrificial layer over the first write  
6           coil layer;  
7           said removing of the sacrificial layer includes chemically mechanically polishing the  
8           sacrificial layer until the sacrificial layer is flat and the pole tip pedestal in the stitch region is  
9           exposed, but stopping the chemical mechanical polishing before the write region of the second  
10          pole tip is exposed; and  
11          the forming of the second pole piece yoke magnetically connects the second pole piece  
12          yoke to the second pole tip pedestal.

1           17. (Previously Presented) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim  
2           15 including the steps of:  
3           forming a first insulation layer directly on the write gap layer with a front portion which  
4           is recessed from the ABS toward the back gap but is located under a pedestal site of the second  
5           pole tip pedestal; and  
6           said forming of the second pole tip forms the second pole tip with said second  
7           pole tip pedestal without additional processing steps because of a profile of the front  
8           portion of said insulation layer.

1           18. (Original) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 17  
2           wherein the sacrificial layer is alumina.

1           19. (Original) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 18  
2           including the steps of:  
3           forming a first shield layer;  
4           forming first and second read gap layers;  
5           forming a read sensor between the first and second read gap layers; and  
6           forming the first and second read gap layers between the first shield layer and  
7           the second pole piece layer.

1           23. (Withdrawn) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 1  
2           including the steps of:  
3           forming a first pole piece layer of a first pole piece;  
4           forming a nonmagnetic write gap layer on the first pole piece layer;  
5           forming a first write coil layer on the write gap layer; and  
6           the forming of the second pole tip forming the bottom surface of the second pole tip on the  
7           write gap layer.

1           24. (Withdrawn) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 23  
2           including:  
3           said depositing of the sacrificial layer also deposits the sacrificial layer on the stitch region  
4           of the second pole tip; and  
5           removing said sacrificial layer from the stitch region of the second pole tip.

1           25. (Withdrawn) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 24  
2           including:  
3           said depositing of the sacrificial layer also deposits the sacrificial layer over the first write  
4           coil layer;  
5           chemically mechanically polishing the sacrificial layer until it is flat, but stopping the  
6           chemical mechanical polishing before the top surface of the second pole tip is exposed; and

7                   before forming the second pole piece yoke, said removing said sacrificial layer including  
8                   etching or ion milling the sacrificial layer from the stitch region of the second pole tip until the  
9                   stitch region is exposed.

1                 26. (Withdrawn) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 25  
2                   including the step of forming an inset insulation layer inset in the first pole piece layer between  
3                   the ABS and the first write coil layer for defining a zero throat height of the head.

1                 27. (Withdrawn) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 26  
2                   wherein the sacrificial layer is alumina.

1                 28. (Currently Amended) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim  
2                   25 including:

3                   the forming of the second pole tip also forms the second pole tip with a pole tip pedestal  
4                   in the stitch region[[]] of the second pole tip;

5                   said depositing of the sacrificial layer also deposits the sacrificial layer over the first write  
6                   coil layer;

7                   said removing of the sacrificial layer includes chemically mechanically polishing the  
8                   sacrificial layer until the sacrificial layer is flat and the pole tip pedestal in the stitch region is  
9                   exposed, but stopping the chemical mechanical polishing before the write region of the second  
10                  pole tip is exposed; and

11                  the forming of the second pole piece yoke magnetically connects the second pole piece  
12                  yoke to the second pole tip pedestal.

1                 29. (Withdrawn) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 28  
2                   including the step of forming a ZTH defining insulation on the first pole piece layer entirely  
3                   between the ABS and the first write coil layer for defining a zero throat height (ZTH)  
4                   of the head.

1                 30. (Withdrawn) A method of making a magnetic head as claimed in claim 29  
2                   wherein the sacrificial layer is alumina.

1           31. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head that has an air bearing surface (ABS) and a  
2           back gap, comprising:

3           a first pole piece including:

4            a first pole piece layer;

5            a first pedestal located at the ABS and magnetically connected to the first pole  
6           piece layer and a second pedestal located at the back gap and magnetically connected to  
7           the first pole piece layer with the first and second pedestals spaced from each other;

8            a first write coil located in the space between the first and second pedestals;

9            a write gap layer on a top of the first pedestal;

10          a second pole piece including:

11          a second pole tip located at the ABS on the write gap layer, and a back gap pedestal  
12          spaced from the second pole tip and magnetically connected to the second pedestal of the  
13          first pole piece;

14          a second write coil layer located in the space between the second pole tip and the  
15          back gap pedestal; and

16          a second pole piece yoke magnetically connected to each of the second pole tip and  
17          the back gap pedestal and located over the second write coil layer.

1           32. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 31 including:

2           a top surface of the second pole tip having a write region located at the ABS and a stitch  
3           region which is recessed in the head;

4           the second pole piece yoke being magnetically connected to the second pole tip at said  
5           stitch region; and

6           a sacrificial layer covering the write region of the second pole tip.

1           33. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 32 wherein the sacrificial  
2           layer is also located between the second write coil layer and the second pole piece yoke.

1           34. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 33 including:  
2           a first shield layer;  
3           first and second read gap layers;  
4           a read sensor located between the first and second read gap layers; and  
5           the first and second read gap layers being located between the first shield layer and the first  
6           pole piece layer.

1           35. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 34 wherein the sacrificial  
2           layer is alumina.

1           36. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 33 including:  
2           the second pole tip having a second pole tip pedestal at its stitch region; and  
3           the second pole piece yoke being directly magnetically connected to the second pole tip  
4           pedestal.

1           37. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 36 including:  
2           a first shield layer;  
3           first and second read gap layers;  
4           a read sensor located between the first and second read gap layers; and  
5           the first and second read gap layers being located between the first shield layer and the first  
6           pole piece layer.

1           38. (Withdrawn) A magnetic head as claimed in claim 37 wherein the sacrificial  
2           layer is alumina.

1           39. (Withdrawn) A magnetic disk drive, having at least one magnetic head  
2           assembly that has a write head, a read head and an air bearing surface (ABS), comprising:  
3           the write head including:  
4                 a first pole piece including:  
5                     a first pole piece layer;

6                   a first pedestal located at the ABS and magnetically connected to the first  
7                   pole piece layer and a second pedestal located at the back gap and magnetically  
8                   connected to the first pole piece layer with the first and second pedestals spaced  
9                   from each other;

10                  a first write coil located in the space between the first and second pedestals;  
11                  a write gap layer on a top of the first pedestal and on a top of the first write  
12                  coil;

13                  a second pole piece including:

14                  a second pole tip located at the ABS on the write gap layer, and a back gap  
15                  pedestal magnetically connected to the second pedestal of the first pole piece; and  
16                  a second pole piece yoke magnetically connected to each of the second pole  
17                  tip and the back gap pedestal; and

18                  the read head including:

19                  a sensor;

20                  nonmagnetic nonconductive first and second read gap layers;

21                  the sensor being located between the first and second read gap layers;

22                  a ferromagnetic first shield layer; and

23                  the first and second read gap layers being located between the first shield layer and  
24                  the first pole piece layer; and

25                  a housing;

26                  a magnetic disk rotatably supported in the housing;

27                  a support mounted in the housing for supporting the magnetic head assembly with said  
28                  ABS facing the magnetic disk so that the magnetic head is in a transducing relationship with the  
29                  magnetic disk;

30                  a spindle motor for rotating the magnetic disk;

31                  an actuator positioning means connected to the support for moving the magnetic head to  
32                  multiple positions with respect to said magnetic disk; and

33                  a processor connected to the magnetic head, to the spindle motor and to the actuator for  
34                  exchanging signals with the magnetic head, for controlling movement of the magnetic disk and  
35                  for controlling the position of the magnetic head.

1           40. (Withdrawn) A magnetic disk drive as claimed in claim 39 including:  
2           a top surface of the second pole tip having a write region located at the ABS and a stitch  
3           region which is recessed in the head;  
4           the second pole piece yoke being magnetically connected to the second pole tip at said  
5           stitch region; and  
6           a sacrificial layer covering the write region of the second pole tip.

1           41. (Withdrawn) A magnetic disk drive as claimed in claim 40 wherein the  
2           sacrificial layer is also located between the second write coil layer and the second pole piece yoke.

1           42. (Withdrawn) A magnetic disk drive as claimed in claim 41 wherein the  
2           sacrificial layer is alumina.

1           43. (Withdrawn) A magnetic disk drive as claimed in claim 41 including:  
2           the second pole tip having a second pole tip pedestal at its stitch region; and  
3           the second pole piece yoke being directly magnetically connected to the second pole tip  
4           pedestal.

1           44. (Withdrawn) A magnetic disk drive as claimed in claim 43 wherein the  
2           sacrificial layer is alumina.